



## U.S. Mission Kazakhstan



*This message is distributed to you via the Warden Message system of the U.S. Mission in Kazakhstan. Wardens, please distribute this message to all Americans in your warden zone.*

**Message for U.S. Citizens:  
Reminder about ATM Security and Littering Penalties in Kazakhstan  
14 February 2013**

U.S. Mission Kazakhstan recently learned that a skimming device was found on an ATM machine in Aktau. Thieves use skimming devices -- a card reader placed over an ATM's real card reader -- and a hidden spy camera or a false keypad in lieu of cameras to record a card-holder's information and PIN code in order to access the card holder's account. There were also reports of similar incidents occurring in other cities including Almaty and Astana.

U.S. Mission Kazakhstan reminds all U.S. citizens to maintain vigilance and suggests the following steps when considering the use of an ATM machine:

1. Does the card slot look newer than the rest of the machine?
2. Is the card slot or the keypad placed at an odd angle or not flush with its surroundings?

If in doubt, please use a different ATM machine placed within secured areas.

U.S. Mission Kazakhstan also received reports that Kazakhstani authorities recently strengthened enforcement of littering laws which includes throwing cigarettes on the ground and spitting, which resulted in fines for several foreigners. We remind U.S. citizens residing or visiting in Kazakhstan that they are subject to all Kazakhstani laws and should not engage in any unlawful activity.

Penalties for littering may range from fines to a reduction in the amount of time a foreigner can stay in Kazakhstan and up to ten days imprisonment. Repeat violations may also lead to difficulties renewing a Kazakhstani visa.

U.S. citizens are reminded to review their personal security plans and remain alert to their surroundings at all times while in Kazakhstan. For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [Department of State's Internet website](#) where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information for Kazakhstan](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#), can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone](#) or [Android app](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.

Up-to-date information on security can also be obtained by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or for callers outside of the United States and Canada, on a regular toll-line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

U.S. citizens are advised to maintain valid travel documents and enroll with the Department of State or the U.S. Mission Kazakhstan through the State Department's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program](#) website. If you enroll we can keep you up to date with important safety and security announcements and can also help your family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency. U.S. citizens without Internet access may enroll directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate.

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